

39
AN
ESSAY
ON
LYING.

Inscrib'd to all True

LOVERS of their COUNTRY.



DUBLIN:

Printed in the Year, M DCC LIV.

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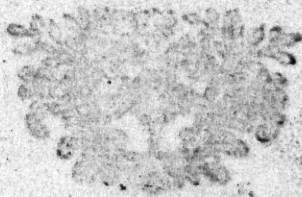
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A N O N A 2 E S S A Y O N L Y I N G.

TO affirm a Falshood was among the *Perfi-
 ant*, the greatest Infamy; and to be in
 Debt, was for many Reasons accounted
 the next Degree of Disgrace. But especi-
 ally because they imagined such a Man always expo-
 sed to the Necessity of Lying.
 An Lie is the meanest, the most scandalous, and
 most dangerous of Vices. There is scarce any
 Wickedness that it does not comprehend: Robbery,
 Murder, and every Kind of Injustice, are the Con-
 sequences of a disregard to Truth; to excuse one
 Lye, twenty more must be told, one Treachery
 draws on another, till at length the whole Man be-
 comes Diabolical, and the Obligation of an Oath
 (that sacred Guard of Property) by habituating our
 Tongues even in Trifles, to utter Falshoods, be-
 comes in process of Time, a Tie of no Force, and
 all the Laws of Society are thereby in Effect dissolv-
 ed:—The Laws of every well ordered Community,
 have therefore taken care as far as possible, to pro-
 tect

test the Reputations of the Individuals, of which it is composed, from the Malevolence of wicked Mouths. But alas! Human Laws, like all other human Things, are too imperfect to provide effectual Remedies against this most horrid Depredation. A base Mind, resolved on Contumely and Falshood, may do irreparable Injury to the worthiest Man in Society. The most improbable Calumny will meet with a kind Reception, from too many, who are envious of the Praises bestowed upon true Merit; the Tale is artfully whispered from one to another, and generally with such aggravating Additions, that the injured Person has often nothing left to combat the Report, but the Consciousness of a good Mind, and a Resolution to despise that which he cannot prevent.

But of all sorts of Falshoods, Party-lying is the most virulent, the most dangerous, and the most to be dreaded. For in other Defamations, only a few here and there adopt the Calumny. And though it can't be quite obstructed; yet there are many People of Rank and Weight, who by throwing cold Water on it, soon prevent its gaining any great Degree of Credit. But where a whole Party has an Interest in propagating the Lie, there it is impossible for the injured Person to find Redress,—the most absurd—the most contradictory, and the most hateful Qualities are often imputed to the worthiest and best Part of our Species, for Parties seldom prescribe any Moderation to their Invectives: But without Regard of Justice, Truth, or Merit, knock down every Thing that dares to stand in their Way. I remember a Gentleman of *W——re*, one *Mr. T——y*, who was possessed of every Quality, that could do Honour to Humanity,—who was the most indulgent Landlord,—the sincerest Friend,—the tenderest Husband, and Father,—the kindest Master;

ter,—the most punctual Pay-Myster,—and in short had as much Benevolence, and social Softness of Nature, as I believe any Man that ever breathed : And yet this Man by having declared himself a Candidate to Represent a Corporation in Parliament, whose Favour he had the greatest Reason to expect, as he and his Family had for a Couple of Centuries, always lived near it, and omitted nothing that could demonstrate their Zeal for the Commonwealth in general, as well as their sincere Attachment to this Place in particular ; yet being in an opposite Interest to a Party, he was very near losing his Election, by one of the most improbable Lies that surely was ever framed, by the most Profligate set of Men : About a Week before the Day appointed for the Election, Mr. T——y had a Call to London, to settle an Affair of great Consequence to his Family : He set out in his Chariot, and the Evening before he arrived in Town, he heard a Cry of great Distress, which issued from a Wood, within a Quarter of a Mile of the Road ; he immediately ordered his Coachman to stop, and taking his Pistols in his Hands, he called to his Valet to follow him, and then proceeded with all the Expedition he was able towards the Place from whence the Lamentation came. He had not gone many Paces in the Covert, before he discovered a beautiful young Woman, almost naked ; and two Ruffians endeavouring to commit the most shocking Violence that can be offered to a modest Woman ; one of them held her Hands, while the other was using all his Force to gratify his libidinous Desires.

Mr. T——y provoked at this Outrage upon Innocence, immediately fired a Pistol, and shot the Man who was holding the Hands of this unhappy Victim, dead on the Spot ; and then leaping like a Lyon on the other, he and his Servant with little Difficulty secured him.

The

The young Woman, who was Daughter to a neighbouring Clergyman, and one of the most charming and amiable Creatures that ever was beheld; and who has since by her Merit, been exalted to the foremost Rank of Life: As soon as she had put on her Cloaths, informed her Deliverer, with many Tears, and the most grateful Acknowledgments of the dreadful Accident that had befallen her; she gave him an Account of her having taken a Walk that Evening to visit a Relation, who lived about half a Mile off, from her Father's House; that she was met by these two Men, who forced her into the Wood, then robbed and stripped her: And if Providence had not sent him to her Relief, were very near compleating her Ruin.

Mr. T——y conducted her to his Chariot, and after having secured the Prisoner, conveyed her safe to her Father's Dwelling, where he met with that Reception, that will be needless here to mention.

The next Morning the Prisoner was carried before a neighbouring Justice of Peace, who committed him to the County Goal; after which, Mr. T——y took his Leave of the Lady and her Father, and set forward for London, where he arrived a few Hours after. However before his Arrival, a Report had been spread half Way over the Town, by a most indefatigable Party Zeal, that Mr. T——y had killed two Men, without the least Provocation; and was that Morning committed to Goal for the said Murders, which appeared to the Justice who committed him of so black a Dye, that he sent him to Prison, attended by a strong Guard, with his Hands and Feet fetter'd. As no Man ever merited the Love of his Acquaintance more than Mr. T——y,

all who heard this strange Story were in the utmost Pain as well as Astonishment; and many immediately set out for the supposed Place of his Confinement, to learn from his own Mouth, the Particulars of this amazing Affair, and to offer him every Service in their Power.

Mr. T——y upon his Arrival in *London*, went immediately about his own private Business, which employ'd him so fully that Evening, that he had not Time to write to his Family in the Country; and many Letters going by that Night's Post to the Borough, and no Account being come from himself to contradict the Contents of them, several Voters thought it no Breach of Promise, now he could not be their Member, to go over to the other Party.

The next Morning he went to St. *James's* Coffee-house, where he met with several of his Friends, who informed him of the Rumour relating to himself; and he immediately seeing into the Villainy, took Post-Horses that Instant, and arrived just Time enough, at the Corporation to retrieve his Affairs, and to carry his Election by an undoubted Majority, to the utter Confusion of the opposite Party.

This is called Party-craft and a worse Name it cannot have; for Party, is, in short, a Monster, that confounds all Right, and Wrong, destroys the Boundaries of Justice, and overturns every Thing that ought to be held Sacred among Mankind.

Nay, to such an amazing Extremity of Wick- edness hath Party Zeal often carried People, that it is much to be questioned, whether the inflamed Bigotry of Religion ever excited the Commission of Blacker Deeds.

I have

I have known two of the nearest Friends, who were united in a County Interest, by the Stratagem of a Party, not only set a Tilting with each other, but the whole Peace of two most worthy Families for ever destroyed, by making one Friend suspect the other of carrying on a criminal Intercourse, and that with a Person no less near to him than his Lady; with whom he had lived for fifteen Years, in the strictest Bonds of conjugal Harmony. And the Consequence of this hellish Piece of Party-Craft was, that an innocent virtuous Woman, was for ever separated from a Husband she adored, and four lovely Children, for whom she had all the Affections of the most tender Mother.

Where Party prevails, the true social Repast, which consists in a free Communication of Sentiments, is utterly banished; Conversation, which ought to be calculated for Improvement as well as Delight, where the Joke and the Serious mix by Turns, and season the joyous Moments, where all Design, all Sneer, and all Falshood are absent, in a Country where Party prevails is not to be found.

An honest Man therefore, who is destined to live in such a Country, should lay it down as a Rule, never to believe ill of any Man, whose Life and Conversation does not deserve an ill Repute; nor should he even in such a Case, hastily conclude, that all he hears is true. In short, a wise Man will not speak the fiftieth Part of what he thinks, nor believe the hundred Part of what he hears.

